

INFORMATION REPORT

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Between 9 and 11 January 1952, the SED Politbüro held a conference which was attended by a high-ranking Soviet political functionary from Karlshorst. The topic of discussion, based on the presumption that the Schuman Plan could become a reality by the end of 1952, was the entire complex of problems regarding West and East Germany.

2. It was noted that the whole struggle for a unified Germany must now become a struggle for the Ruhr. The Soviet concept of Germany is based on the Potsdam Agreement. The Schuman Plan, the culmination of many less important political developments of the last years, would actually enable the nullification of the Potsdam Agreement. Should the Schuman Plan become fact, it would not be a violation of the Potsdam Agreement, but would actually amount to its deliberate unilateral abrogation by the West.

3. It was pointed out that until now the employment of various means of protest against treaty violations had principally been the task of the East German government and its National Front organization. Should the Schuman Plan come into force, however, a new situation could arise whereby not simply the DDR but, above all, the eastern partner to the Potsdam Agreement, the USSR, would be faced with a decision.

4. The Ruhr is the fulcrum for stability of Europe. The Soviet Union, on general political grounds and because of its German policy, has only one interest of vital importance: the Ruhr must remain German territory. The Schuman Plan, however, will make the Ruhr the main American base for arms and heavy industry. In 1923, with the occupation of the Ruhr, the resistance of the German working class finally saved the area. Today the danger is much greater, because the Ruhr is being taken from Germany by means of a treaty between West Germany and the eastern powers. This time, however, Germany does not stand alone in its defense but is joined by the Soviet Union and the East Bloc.

5. To date only the parliaments of France, the Federal German Republic and Holland have ratified the Schuman Plan treaty, and there is a relatively long period left before the Plan is actually realized. During this period, the decisive task is to bring so much direct and protest to bear on the signers of the Schuman Plan treaty that the Western partners will not be allowed a minute of peace. Together

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with action against the realization of the Schuman Plan, the great resistance of West Germany to remilitarization must be mobilized on a scale which will dwarf all previous propaganda campaigns.

The Politburo, with its past experiences, regarded with some skepticism the chances for success of this new drive. It was stated, however, that the final realization of the Schuman Plan and subsequent West German remilitarization could not be allowed to come about, even should all these forms of propaganda action fail. This was claimed to be the attitude of the Soviet Union. The point was emphasized that a clear unilateral abrogation would, in the final instance, be the occasion for the possible active resistance of the Soviet Union as a partner to the Ickesam Agreement.

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